



Alberta Economic Development

Facts on Alberta

January 2002

Alberta
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



FACTS ON ALBERTA



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For more information, contact:

**Alberta Economic Development
Policy and Economic Analysis Division**

4th Floor, Commerce Place
10155 - 102 Street

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 4L6

Telephone: (780) 427-0760 Telefax: (780) 422-0061

Website: <http://www.alberta-canada.com/>

Note: Every attempt was made to use the most verifiable, up-to-date facts. However, as new statistics become available over time, the specific information presented, while still representing a good overall picture, will become less accurate.



POPULATION:	3.1 million
AREA:	Over 661,000 km ²
MAJOR CITIES: (population)	<i>Edmonton metropolitan area</i> - 956, 800 (2001) <i>Calgary metropolitan area</i> - 971, 500 (2001)
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT:	\$142.6 billion (2000, current dollars)
REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH:	Estimated at 4.7% for 2001 • 2000: 5.4% • 1999: 1.6% • 1998: 2.6% • 1997: 8.5%
ECONOMIC BASE:	<i>Traditional</i> ♦ Oil and Gas ♦ Petro-Chemicals ♦ Agricultural Services ♦ Food and Beverage Processing ♦ Tourism <i>Emerging</i> ♦ Telecommunications/Wireless Equipment ♦ Biotechnology ♦ Software Development ♦ Electronics & Microelectronics
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT:	\$34.7 billion (2000 actual) \$39.6 billion (2001 intentions)
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:	5% (2000 actual) 4.6% (2001 estimate)
GOVERNMENT:	The Alberta Government's strategy combines natural advantages with a positive business climate that encourages investment and growth. This includes: ♦ a low tax regime; ♦ streamlined regulations; ♦ a balanced provincial budget; and, ♦ a modern infrastructure of transportation, utilities, education and health.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW.....	1
COSTS ADVANTAGE.....	3
TAXATION - CORPORATE	6
REAL ESTATE.....	8
• Commercial & Industrial	8
• Residential	10
LABOUR FORCE.....	11
• Productivity	11
• Employment Figures	11
• Unionization	13
• Labour Costs	13
• Employment Standards	15
PERSONAL TAXATION	16
TRANSPORTATION – TRUCKING, RAIL & AIR	18
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION	20
• University of Alberta.....	21
• The University of Calgary.....	22
• The University of Lethbridge.....	23
• Athabasca University	23
• Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)	24
• Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT).....	24
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE.....	25
• Alberta Research Council (ARC)	25
• Telecommunications Research Labs (TRLabs).....	26
• Netera Alliance Inc	26
• Maci.....	26
• Alberta SuperNet.....	26
• Alberta Agricultural Research Institute	26
• The Industry Leason Office	26
• ICore	27
• The National Institute of Nanotechnology.....	27
• Research & Development Parks	27
• Research & Development Programs.....	28
• Research & Development Tax Credits	29
QUALITY OF LIFE.....	30
• Nature & Tourism	30
• Social and Cultural Activities	31
• Sports & Fitness	32
• Educational Opportunities.....	33
• Safe Environment.....	33

Overview

Business Advantage

From a business perspective, Alberta has consistently ranked ahead of most other jurisdictions in both Canada and the United States. Overall, Alberta's open and positive business environment consists of:

- Lowest overall tax burden in Canada: low provincial personal, business and property taxes;
- Streamlined regulations to improve the competitiveness of Alberta companies;
- **No provincial sales tax** - the only province in Canada without one;
- Modern infrastructure of transportation, utilities, education and health;
- Highly skilled and productive workforce;
- Abundance of natural resources.

As a result, Alberta has had the fastest growing economy in Canada over the past ten years, averaging 4.5% growth.

Highlighting Alberta's success in the year 2000 are:

- Over \$61.3 billion in international exports of goods and services;
- Manufacturing shipments of \$42.6 billion;
- Approximately \$80 billion in major capital projects, planned, underway or recently completed as of December 2001;
- Creation of 34,900 new jobs.



*Alberta's communities offer a diversity of resources and expertise to meet your business needs. To find out more, visit the **Alberta First.Com** website (www.albertafirst.com).*

Lifestyle Advantage

Canada has consistently been rated by the United Nations as one of the top countries in which to live. Similarly, Alberta is known for its unique lifestyle and high standard of living. In particular, Alberta offers:

- Spectacular natural beauty and a clean environment;
- Hundreds of cultural festivals, sporting events, fairs and rodeos;
- Cultural and recreation facilities that include international calibre theatres, music halls, and sporting venues;
- Major cities and national parks (Jasper and Banff) that are recognized as international tourism destinations;
- Safe, modern cities and charming small towns and villages.

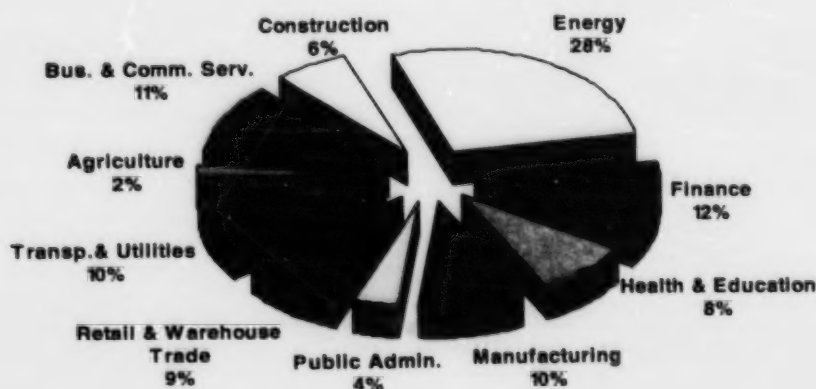
Province	Population 2001 ('000)	Unemployment Rate, 2000	GDP, 2000 (millions)	Real Economic Growth (at 1997 prices)			
				1991-2000	2001 (f)	2002 (f)	2003 (f)
British Columbia	4,096	7.2 %	\$ 127,564	2.6 %	0.9 %	1.1 %	3.8 %
Alberta	3,064	5.0 %	143,034	4.1 %	4.2 %	2.3 %	3.7 %
Saskatchewan	1,016	5.2 %	33,512	2.6 %	1.0 %	2.0 %	3.2 %
Manitoba	1,150	4.9 %	33,780	1.9 %	1.8 %	1.2 %	3.4 %
Ontario	11,874	5.7 %	429,530	3.1 %	0.8 %	0.7 %	4.6 %
Quebec	7,411	8.4 %	223,481	2.3 %	0.8 %	0.6 %	4.3 %
New Brunswick	757	10.0 %	19,709	2.2 %	0.8 %	1.0 %	3.5 %
Nova Scotia	943	9.1 %	24,061	1.9 %	1.5 %	1.0 %	3.8 %
Prince Edward Island	139	12.0 %	3,344	3.1 %	1.5 %	1.5 %	3.3 %
Newfoundland	534	16.7 %	14,081	2.3 %	1.0 %	6.3 %	3.5 %
Canada	31,082	6.8 %	1,056,910	2.1 %	1.3 %	1.1 %	4.2 %

Source: Statistics Canada; Conference Board of Canada, forecasts as of October 19, 2001

Structure of the Alberta Economy

Percentage Distribution of GDP

Total GDP at market prices for 2000: \$142.6 billion



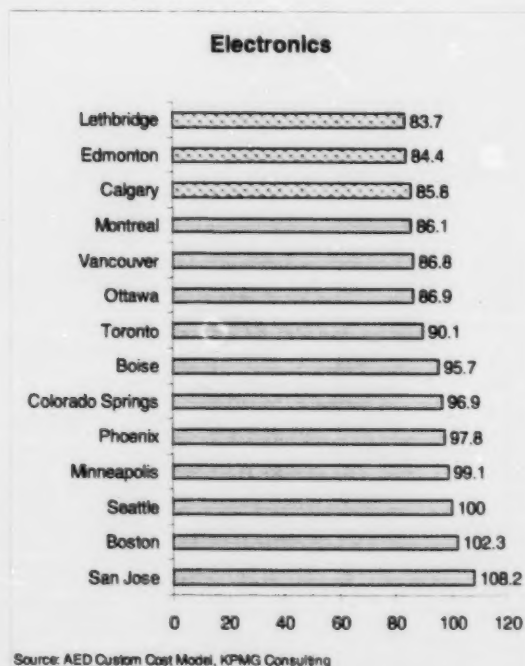
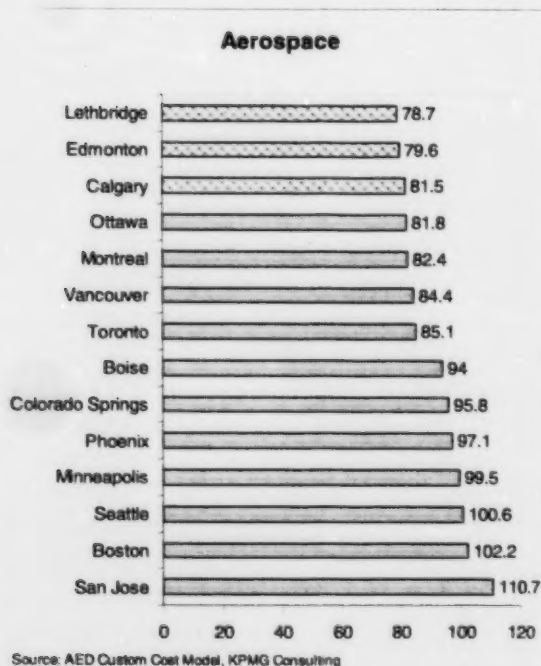
Source: Alberta Finance, 2001

COST ADVANTAGE

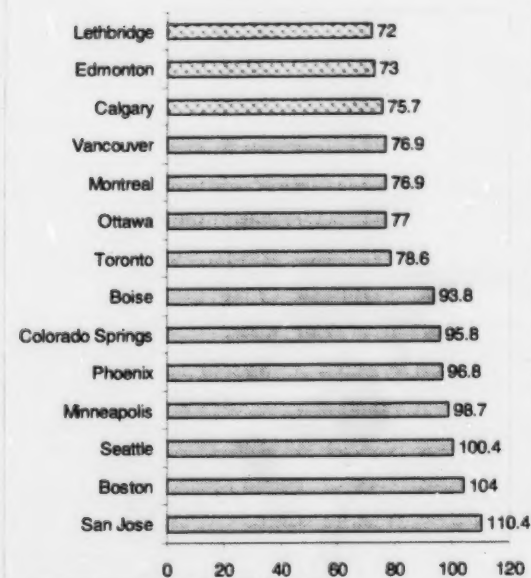
Through a combination of low taxes, skilled workforce and well-established infrastructure, Alberta provides an advantage across all industry sectors.

The charts below compare the overall cost of doing business in Alberta to four Canadian and seven US locations. Overall costs are expressed as an index based on an average US cost of 100. Comparisons were made for ten different industries using a custom cost model developed by KPMG Consulting. Industries examined include: food processing, call centres, electronics, medical devices, metal fabrication, pharmaceuticals, plastics, telecommunication, aerospace and software production.

The charts below demonstrate the Alberta cost advantage over other jurisdictions:

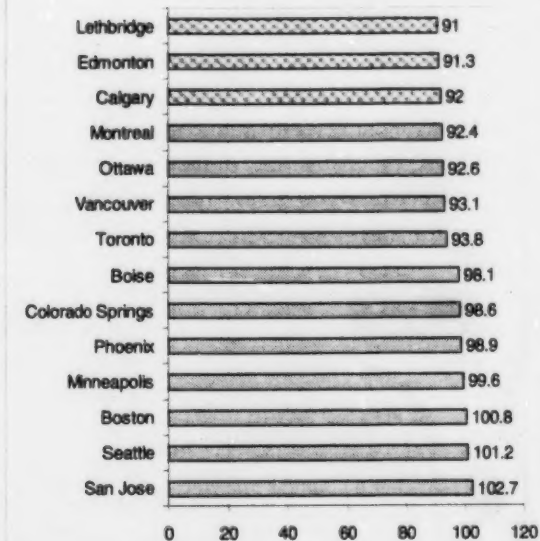


Software



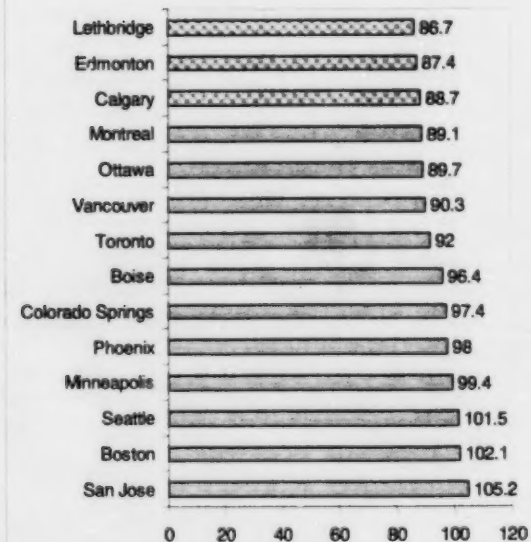
Source: AED Custom Cost Model, KPMG Consulting

Telecom Equipment



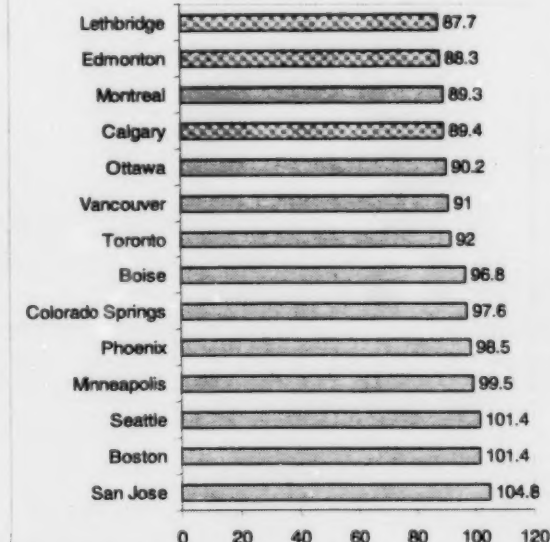
Source: AED Custom Cost Model, KPMG Consulting

Medical Devices



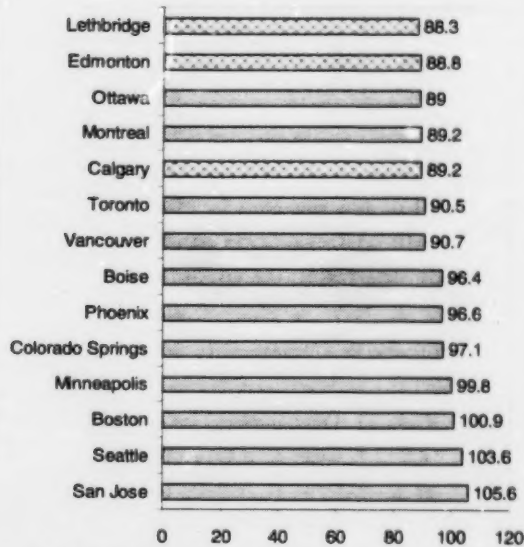
Source: AED Custom Cost Model, KPMG Consulting

Pharmaceuticals



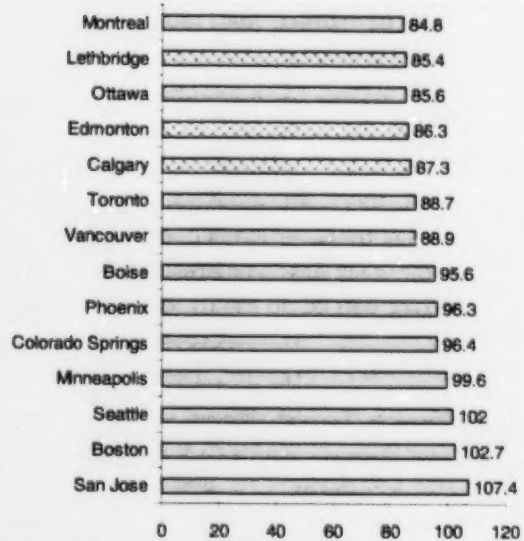
Source: AED Custom Cost Model, KPMG Consulting

Food Processing



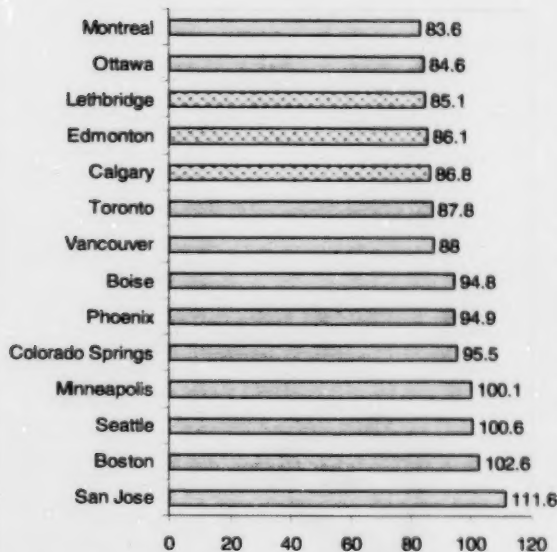
Source: AED Custom Cost Model, KPMG Consulting

Metal Fabrication



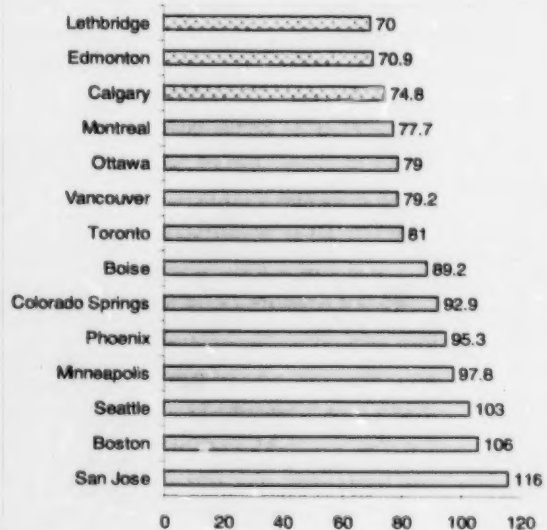
Source: AED Custom Cost Model, KPMG Consulting

Plastics Manufacturing



Source: AED Custom Cost Model, KPMG Consulting

Call Centre



Source: AED Custom Cost Model, KPMG Consulting

Taxation - Corporate

Alberta has one of the lowest overall tax systems in Canada. Contributing to this are:

- no provincial sales tax
- no provincial general capital tax or payroll taxes
- no machinery & equipment tax

Alberta plans to reduce its general corporate income tax rate from the current level of 13.5% to 8% by 2004 and to reduce its small business corporate income tax rate to 3% by 2003. With the changes to the provincial and federal tax regimes, Alberta will have one of the most competitive business tax environments in North America. The combined federal/provincial corporate income tax rate will be 30.1% by 2004.

Provincial Corporate Tax Rates

Corporate Taxes (%)	B.C.	AB	Sask	Man	Ont	Que	N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	Nfld
Small Business	4.5	5.0 ^a	6.0	6.0 ^b	6.0	9.04 ^c	4.0	5.0	7.5	5.0
Mfg. & Processing	16.5 ^d	13.5	10/17	17.0	11.0	9.04	16.0	16.0	7.5	5.0
General	16.5	13.5	17.0	17.0	12.5	9.04	16.0	16.0	16.0	14.0
Capital Tax:										
General (maximum)	0.15 ^e	-	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.64	0.3	0.25	-	-
Financial Institutions	1.0/3.0	-	0.7/3.25	3.0	0.4/0.90 ^f	1.55	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	2.15	1.95	4.26	-	-	-	2.0

Consumption Taxes	B.C.	AB	Sask	Man	Ont	Que	N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	Nfld
Retail Sales Tax ^g (%)	7.0	-	6.0	7.0	8.0	7.5	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0
Fuel Taxes ^{h,i} (¢/litre):										
Gasoline	11.0	9.0	15.0	11.5	14.7	15.2	13.0	13.5	13.0	16.5
Highway diesel fuel	11.5	9.0	15.0	10.9	14.3	16.2	15.4	15.4	13.5	16.5
Aviation fuel	2.0 ^j	1.5	3.5	3.2 ^k	2.7	3.0	2.5	0.9	0.7	0.7

Source: Alberta Economic Development, rates as of December 13, 2001

- Subject to affordability, Alberta's small business, mfg. & processing and general corporate income tax rates will be reduced effective on April 1, 2002 to 4.0%, 11.5% & 11.5% respectively.
- Manitoba is reducing the small business, mfg. & processing and general corporate income tax rates to 5%, 16.5% and 16.5% respectively effective Jan. 1, 2002.
- Quebec's rate including youth fund surtax = $(8.9\% \times (1+1.6\%)) = 9.04\%$. Quebec offers a ten-year tax holiday on corporate income tax, payroll and capital tax to small business that in "remote resource regions" that employ less than 100 people.
- BC's Mfg. and processing and general corporate income tax rates are to be reduced to 13.55 effective Jan. 1, 2002.
- BC is eliminating this tax effective Sept. 1, 2002.
- Ontario's lower rate applies to credit unions and will increase to 0.6% effective Dec. 31, 2001. The 0.9% rate applies to large deposit taking institutions.
- Quebec's sales taxes are partially harmonized and New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland's sales taxes are fully harmonized with federal GST.
- Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland also apply sales tax on gasoline and diesel purchases.
- Gasoline & diesel fuel also incur a transit levy of 4¢ / litre in Vancouver, 2.5¢ / litre in Victoria and 1.5¢ / litre in Montreal.
- Tax rate is zero for international cargo flights and cargo payload on international passenger aircraft.
- Retail Sales tax is applied on top of this.

Federal Corporate Tax Rates

	CANADA (04/2001)	UNITED STATES (12/2000)
Corporate Income Tax:		
General	28.12%	35.0%
Manufacturing	22.12%	35.0%
Small Business	13.12%	33.4%
Capital Tax	0.225% ^a	--
Sales Tax	7.0% ^b	--
Social Security^c	4.3% (max. \$1548.00)	6.2% (max. \$ 4984.80)
Emp. Ins. / Unemployment Tax	3.15% (max. \$ 1288.50)	6.2% (max. \$ 434.00)
Medicare	--	1.45%

Note: amounts in currency of country.

a On capital assets in excess of \$10 million.

b This is a refundable value-added tax, i.e. there is no net cost to a manufacturer once input tax credits (refunds) have been claimed.

c U.S. Social Security and Canada Pension Plan.

d State unemployment tax up to a maximum of 5.4% is deductible from the federal tax. Only the first \$US 7000.00 of wages is subject to the federal tax. State maximum wage bases vary.

The Government of Canada is reducing its general corporate income tax rate from 28% to 21% by 2004.

Commercial Property Tax

The assessment of property is based on either market value or a regulated value determined by valuation standards set out in the Municipal Government Act and Regulations. There are two levies against assessable property in Alberta: the municipal levy, used to fund municipal services, and the Alberta School Foundation Fund, collected on behalf of the provincial government to help fund education. Property tax varies considerably by municipality and is difficult to compare. Based on generic modeling of companies in eight different industries using KPMG developed data, Calgary and Edmonton's average commercial property tax in the first quarter of 2001 expressed in U.S. dollars was \$1.29 per ft.² compared to an average of \$3.01 per ft.² for Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa and an average of \$2.39 per ft.² for seven U.S. cities (Boise, Boston, Colorado Springs, Minneapolis, Phoenix, San Jose and Seattle).

Business Tax

Businesses in the cities of Calgary and Edmonton must also pay a Business tax that is calculated based on the average rental value of the business premises multiplied by the tax rate as set by City Council each year.

	Calgary	Edmonton
Business Tax^a	9.73%	6.29%

Source: Cities of Edmonton and Calgary; 2001

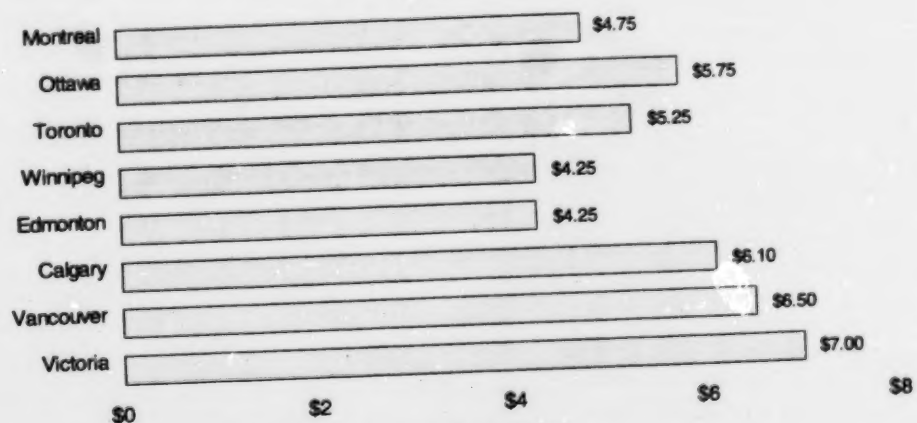
a. Based on estimated rental value

REAL ESTATE

Alberta offers an abundance of well serviced, competitively priced and suited to a variety of uses industrial sites. Edmonton has industrial square footage rates that are among the lowest in Canada for major metropolitan areas. Smaller municipalities, such as Lethbridge and Red Deer, have numerous facilities at rates lower than those in the larger cities.

Calgary is Canada's second largest head office city, while Edmonton is the location of most provincial and federal government offices. Office occupancy costs for both cities have consistently been among the lowest, compared to other major metropolitan areas in Canada. The industrial parks in Alberta also offer a variety of parcel sizes and choices.

Industrial Lease Rates



Note: \$ per square foot of medium size warehouse space

Source: Colliers Macaulay Nicolls Inc., Canadian Real Estate Review 2000-2001

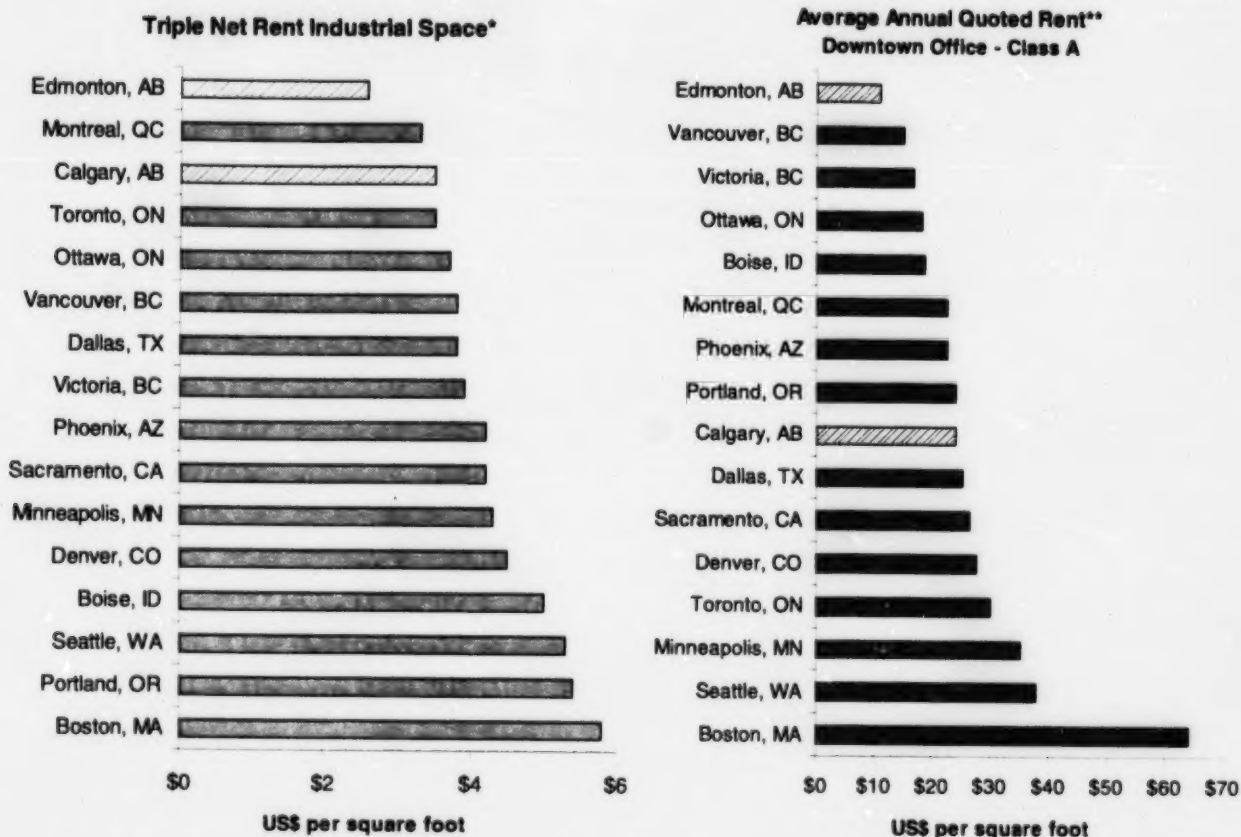
Office Operating Costs and Taxes (Downtown Class A)



Note: \$ per square foot. Operating costs include utilities, building management and janitorial.

Source: Colliers Macaulay Nicolls Inc., Canadian Real Estate Review 2000-2001.

North American Real Estate Costs - 2000



* Triple Net Rent includes rent payable to the landlord and does not include additional expenses such as taxes, insurance, maintenance, janitorial and utilities. All industrial and high-tech/R&D rents are quoted on an annual, triple net per square foot basis in US dollars.

Source: Colliers International, North America Industrial Real Estate Highlights - Mid Year 2001

** Annual occupancy costs includes base rent, operating expenses & taxes less an amount equal to the amortized values of landlord concessions of free rent and/or cash contributions. Costs based on a 5 year lease of 10,000 square feet in a prime downtown location. Annual occupancy costs based on triple net rents on a five-year lease of 20,000 to 40,000 square feet of warehouse space.

Source: Colliers International, North American Office Real Estate Highlights - Mid Year 2001

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

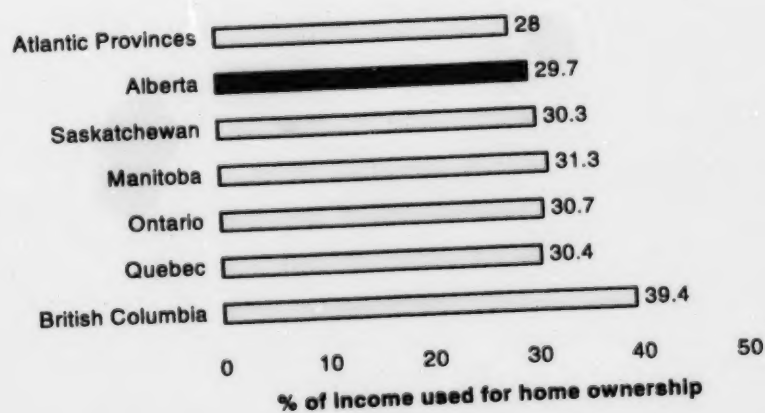
Housing affordability in Alberta exceeds that of other provinces. For the approximate price of a townhouse of 1,000 ft² in metro Toronto or Vancouver, you can get a house of 2,500 ft² on a full lot in Alberta.

Average Housing Prices - 2000



Source: Canadian Real Estate Association, January 2001

Housing Affordability



Source: Royal Bank of Canada, second quarter 2001

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LABOUR FORCE

Companies located in Alberta choose employees from a pool of skilled, talented and cost-effective labour force. General facts about the Alberta labour force are:

- Alberta's labour force consists of over 1.7 million well-educated personnel.
- Alberta's average employment increased by about 45,000 in 2001.
- Alberta had the **highest workforce participation rate** at 72.3%, compared to the national average of 66% for 2001.
- In 2001, Alberta had the **highest employment rate** in Canada of 69%, well above the national average of 61.3%.
- Alberta's 4.6% was the **lowest unemployment rate** in Canada for 2001, compared to the national average of 7.1%.
- Alberta has the **highest worker productivity and productivity growth rate** in Canada.
- In 2000, 56% of the labour force, 25 years and over, reported holding a university degree or post-secondary diploma or certificate.
- Currently, Alberta has the **highest number of engineers per capita**, almost 2 for every 100 Albertans in the labour force.

Productivity by Province

Province	Productivity (GDP/Capita) 2000*	Productivity Growth Rate 1989-1998**
Alberta	\$ 47,506	2.11
Saskatchewan	\$ 32,768	2.01
Canada	\$ 34,273	1.04
British Columbia	\$ 31,323	0.97
Ontario	\$ 36,633	0.73
Manitoba	\$ 29,407	0.56
Nova Scotia	\$ 25,525	0.52
Newfoundland	\$ 26,149	0.52
Quebec	\$ 30,280	0.46
New Brunswick	\$ 26,030	0.41
Prince Edward Island	\$ 24,063	0.25

*Source: Statistics Canada, Alberta Economic Development

**Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards
(total factor productivity based on hours)

Educational Attainment of Population (25 year and over), 2000 Annual Averages (%)

Educational Level	NF	PEI	NS	NB	PQ	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	CAN
0 - 8 years	18.6	13.8	10.5	17.2	18.4	9.8	11.2	12.4	7.1	6.2	11.7
Some high school	18.3	20.4	19.2	15.2	13.9	12.9	17.5	17.3	13.5	13.2	13.9
High school graduate	14.7	15.6	14.4	19.6	16.0	21.4	20.3	20.1	20.7	23.3	19.8
Some post-secondary education	5.1	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.6	7.4	7.3	7.7	9.0	9.1	7.2
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	33.5	32.2	34.7	30.6	29.8	28.2	27.8	29.5	33.4	30.2	29.7
University degree	9.9	12.0	15.3	12.2	16.3	20.3	15.9	13.1	16.4	18.0	17.7

Source: Labour Force Historical Review, 2000, Statistics Canada

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High school graduate	14.7	15.6	14.4	19.6	16.0	21.4	20.3	20.1	20.7	23.3	19.8
Some post-secondary education	5.1	6.0	6.0	5.3	5.6	7.4	7.3	7.7	9.0	9.1	7.2
Post-secondary certificate or diploma	33.5	32.2	34.7	30.6	29.8	28.2	27.8	29.5	33.4	30.2	29.7
University degree	9.9	12.0	15.3	12.2	16.3	20.3	15.9	13.1	16.4	18.0	17.7

Source: Labour Force Historical Review, 2000, Statistics Canada

Employment by Industry - Alberta

Sector	'000
Agriculture	69.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	83.3
Utilities	12.5
Construction	128.3
Manufacturing	140.1
Trade	252.6
Transportation and warehousing	97.0
Fin., insurance, real estate and leasing	79.0
Professional, scientific and tech. services	108.3
Management, admin. and other support	53.1
Educational services	99.9
Health care and social assistance	148.7
Information, culture and recreation	62.3
Accommodation and food services	115.0
Other services	76.9
Public administration	61.9
All industries	1588.2

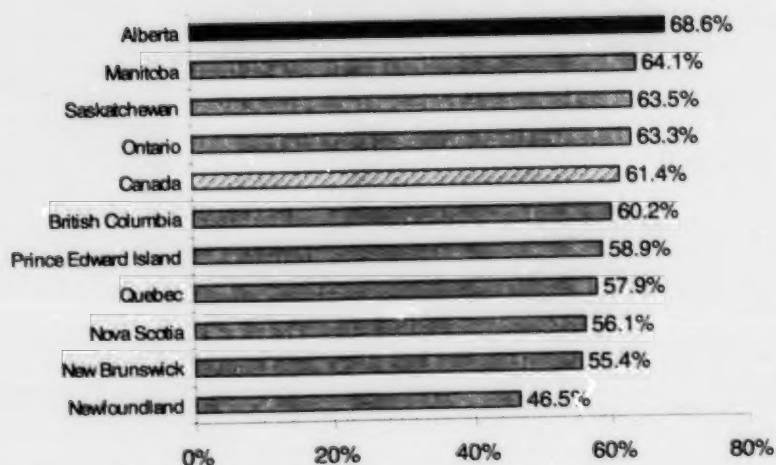
Employment by Occupation - Alberta

Occupation	'000
Management occupations	150.5
Business, finance and administrative occupations	281.9
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	103.8
Health occupations	73.4
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	96.6
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	34.8
Sales and service occupations	399.2
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	267.9
Occupations unique to primary industry	106.3
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	73.9
All occupations	1588.2

Source: Labour Force Historical Review, 2000, Statistics Canada

*Alberta has the highest percentage of employed people of any province.
(The Employment Rate is a measure of the number of people employed relative to working age population, 15 years and over.)*

Employment Rate



Source: Labour Force Historical Review, 2000, Statistics Canada

Alberta's overall unionization rate is estimated at 23.8%, among the lowest in Canada. Public sector union membership (public administration, education and health) accounts for the bulk of this rate. The unionization rate in the private sector is 12.7%. Over the past 10 years, Alberta's number of person-days lost due to labour disputes has ranked among the lowest in Canada. In 2000, the number of person-days lost due to labour disputes in Alberta averaged 1.7 days per 10,000 worked, relative to the Canadian average of 5.0.

Estimated Union Coverage, 2000 Annual Averages

Sector	Total Employees ('000)	Unionized Employees ('000)	Percent Union Members
Accommodation Food & Other Services	106.7	3.7	3.5%
Agriculture & Other Primary	92.3	6.8	7.4%
Construction	89.7	18.6	20.7%
Finance & Business Services	64.6	3.4	5.3%
Manufacturing	131.8	22.6	17.1%
Trade	218.8	27.6	12.6%
Transportation, Communications & Storage	78.1	32.0	41.0%
Utilities	12.5	7.0	56.0%
Private Sector Rate	1038.1	131.9	12.7%
Education	94.2	61.1	64.9%
Health & Social Services	131.7	63.7	48.4%
Public Administration	61.9	40.3	65.1%
Public Sector Rate	261.1	176.7	67.7%
All Industries	1299.2	308.6	23.8%

Alberta has one of the lowest unionization rates in Canada.

Source: Labour Force Historical Review, 2000, Statistics Canada

LABOUR COSTS

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage (\$Cdn)*
Manager - Financial	\$ 29.40
Manager - Manufacturing	\$ 23.50
Supervisor - General Office	\$ 16.80
Bookkeeper	\$ 14.75
Oil & Gas Drilling Labourer	\$ 19.75
Heavy Equipment Operator	\$ 17.90
Electrician	\$ 14.90
Welder	\$ 21.00
Carpenter	\$ 16.40
Secretary	\$ 15.15
Retail Sales Person	\$ 10.05
Civil Engineer	\$ 23.70

Technician/Technologists (2000)	Average Salary (\$Cdn)**
Electrical	\$ 31,013
Electronics	\$ 33,853
Computer (hardware/networking)	\$ 35,043
Computer (software/applications)	\$ 31,800
Manufacturing	\$ 32,380
Instrumentation	\$ 36,684

*Based on 3 years of experience. Averages of Edmonton/Calgary, except oil & gas drilling labourer (Edmonton).

Source: 1999 Alberta Wage Survey, Statistics Canada

**Based on less than 5 years of experience

Source: 2001 Alberta Society of Engineering Technologists Salary Survey

Salaries in Canada and the United States - 2000 (\$Cdn)

Information Technology Professionals	Canada	United States*
Applications Development		
Programmer/Developer	\$60,000 - \$84,750	\$87,750 - \$135,000
Program Analyst	\$45,000 - \$65,000	\$72,000 - \$101,625
Database Administration		
Database Manager	\$75,000 - \$94,250	\$111,000 - \$143,625
Database Administrator	\$61,750 - \$90,500	\$99,750 - \$139,500
Internet and Electronic Commerce		
Programmer/Analyst	\$55,750 - \$76,500	\$80,250 - \$115,875
Webmaster	\$52,000 - \$74,000	\$81,125 - \$112,875
Networking/Communications		
Systems Architect	\$69,500 - \$93,000	\$116,250 - \$151,125
Telecommunications Specialist	\$55,750 - \$72,000	\$78,000 - \$103,875

* Based on US \$1=Cdn \$1.50

Source: RHI Consulting - 2001 Career Guide

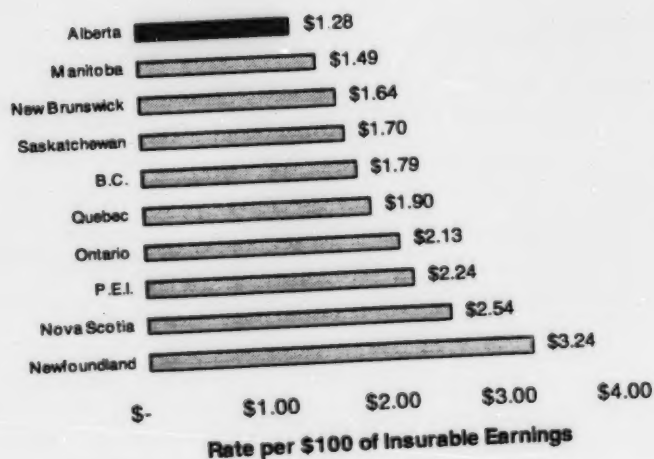
Minimum Wage

BC	AB	SK	MAN	ONT	QUE	NB	NS	PEI	NFLD
\$8.00	\$5.90	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.85	\$6.90	\$5.75	\$5.80	\$6.00	\$5.50

Source: Human Resources Development Canada

Workers' Compensation Premiums
(Average Premium Rates, \$Cdn)

CANADA - 2001



Source: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

The majority of employees in Alberta are covered by the *Employment Standards Code*, a Statute of the Province of Alberta, which establishes minimum employment standards for employers and employees in the workforce. Groups exempt from the code include police officers and certain provincial employees who are regulated through other statutes. The code creates minimum standards in areas such as:

1. Hours of work, payment of earnings and overtime pay
 - In general, the maximum workday is 12 hours long.
 - An employer must allow employees at least one day of rest each week. Employees cannot be required to work more than 24 consecutive days unless the period is followed by at least four consecutive days of rest.
 - Employees must be paid at least once a month.
 - Hours over eight in a day and/or 44 in a week are considered overtime. Overtime is paid out 1.5 times of the regular wage. Some employers and employees agree by signing an overtime agreement to replace overtime pay wholly or partly with time off with pay.
2. Vacation and vacation pay
 - Entitlement of 2 weeks after 12 months of employment.
 - Entitlement of 3 weeks after 5 years of employment.
3. Minimum wage rates
 - \$5.90 per hour
4. General holidays and general holiday pay

In Alberta, the following are general holidays: New Year's Day; Alberta Family Day; Good Friday; Victoria Day; Canada Day; Labour Day; Thanksgiving Day; Remembrance Day; Christmas Day; and any other day designated by the employer.
5. Notice for termination of employment

The minimum notice requirements that employers must give are:

 - one week – for employment of more than three months, but less than two years
 - two weeks – for employment of two years, but less than four years,
 - four weeks – for employment of four years, but less than six years,
 - five weeks – for employment of six years, but less than eight years,
 - six weeks – for employment of eight years, but less than 10 years, and
 - eight weeks – for employment of 10 years or more.
6. Parental benefits
 - A birth mother will be able to take up to 52 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave from employment made up of 15 weeks maternity leave and 37 weeks of parental leave.
 - Fathers and/or adoptive parents are also eligible for 37 weeks of unpaid, job-protected parental leave. Adoptive parents can take parental leave when they adopt a child under the age of 18.
 - Parental leave may be taken entirely by one of the parents or can be shared between both parents.

For more information: Alberta Human Resources and Employment
<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/hre/employmentstandards/>

PERSONAL TAXATION

2001 Personal Income Tax for Provinces

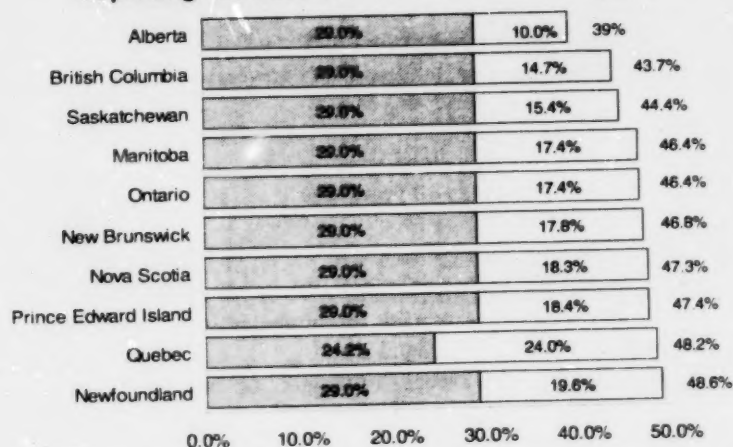
Alberta		British Columbia		Saskatchewan		Manitoba		Ontario	
Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate
\$0 and over	10%	\$0 to \$30,484	7.3%	\$0 to \$30,544	10.9%	\$0 to \$30,544	10.9%	\$0 to \$30,814	6.2%
		\$30,484 to \$60,969	10.5%	\$30,544 to \$61,089	16.2%	\$30,544 to \$61,089	16.2%	\$30,814 to \$61,629	9.24%
		\$60,969 to \$70,000	13.7%						
		\$70,000 to \$85,000	15.7%	\$61,089 and over	17.4%	\$61,089 and over	17.4%	\$61,629 and over	11.16%
	flat rate	\$80,000 and over	16.7%						

Quebec		New Brunswick		Nova Scotia		Prince Edward Island		Newfoundland	
Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate
\$0 to \$26,000	17.0%	\$0 to \$30,754	9.68%	\$0 to \$29,590	9.77%	\$0 to \$30,754	9.8%	\$0 to \$29,590	10.57%
\$26,000 to \$52,000	21.25%	\$30,754 to \$61,509	14.82%	\$29,590 to \$59,180	14.95%	\$30,754 to \$61,509	13.8%	\$29,590 to \$59,180	16.16%
\$52,000 and over	24.5%	\$61,509 to \$100,000	16.52%	\$59,180 and over	16.67%	\$61,509 and over	16.7%	\$59,180 and over	18.02%
		\$100,000 and over							

As of January 1, 2001, Alberta switched to a new single rate of tax on personal income of 10%. Personal exemptions have nearly doubled and spousal exemptions have more than doubled. These changes, combined with other recent tax changes, will result in a 23% tax cut and annual savings of \$1.5 billion to Albertans.

It has been demonstrated that the total tax load in Alberta is lower than in any other province. In 2001, a one-income family earning \$30,000 with two children will pay almost 80% less in provincial taxes and health care insurance premiums than a similar family would pay, on average, in other provinces. Two-income families earning \$60,000 or \$100,000 with two children will both pay close to 40% less than similar families would pay, on average, in other provinces.

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rates 2002



Note: Federal Tax payable has been reduced by the 16.5% abatement for Quebec taxpayers whose taxes payable are the aggregate of federal and provincial taxes. Taxable income for Quebec purposes is likely to differ from that determined for federal purposes.

Source: KPMG Consulting LP, Ernst & Young LLP, November 22, 2001

Disposable Income per Capita

Ontario	\$22,271
Alberta	\$21,968
Canada	\$20,508
British Columbia	\$19,751
Manitoba	\$19,466
Quebec	\$18,744
Nova Scotia	\$18,695
New Brunswick	\$18,331
Saskatchewan	\$18,044
Prince Edward Island	\$17,290
Newfoundland	\$16,754

Source: Statistics Canada, 2000



PERSONAL TAXATION

2001 Personal Income Tax for Provinces

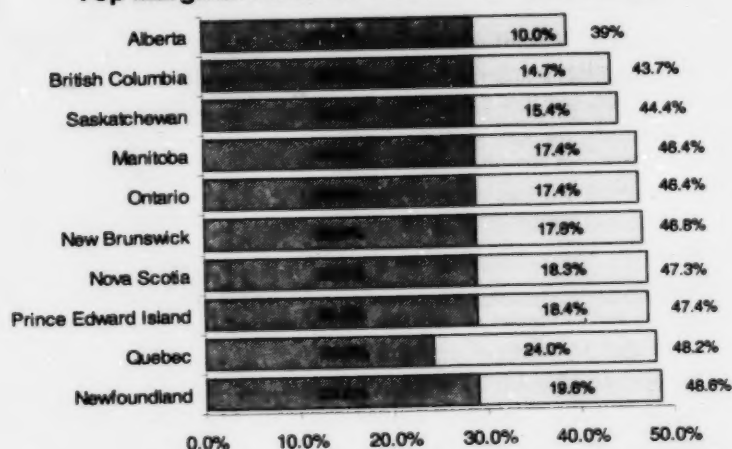
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\$0 and over	10%	\$0 to \$30,484	7.3%	\$0 to \$30,544	10.9%	\$0 to \$30,544	10.9%	\$0 to \$30,814	6.2%
	flat rate	\$30,484 to \$60,969	10.5%	\$30,544 to \$61,089	16.2%	\$30,544 to \$61,089	16.2%	\$30,814 to \$61,629	9.24%
		\$60,969 to \$70,000	13.7%	\$61,089 and over	17.4%	\$61,089 and over	17.4%	\$61,629 and over	11.18%
		\$70,000 to \$85,000	15.7%						
		\$80,000 and over	16.7%						

Quebec		New Brunswick		Nova Scotia		Prince Edward Island		Newfoundland	
Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate	Income	Rate
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\$26,000 to \$52,000	21.25%	\$30,754 to \$61,509	14.82%	\$29,590 to \$59,180	14.95%	\$30,754 to \$61,509	13.8%	\$29,590 to \$59,180	16.16%
\$52,000 and over	24.5%	\$61,509 to \$100,000	16.52%	\$59,180 and over	16.67%	\$61,509 and over	16.7%	\$59,180 and over	18.02%
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Saskatchewan	\$18,044
Prince Edward Island	\$17,290
Newfoundland	\$16,754

Source: Statistics Canada, 2000

INTERPROVINCIAL TAX COMPARISON, 2001 (PRELIMINARY)

Alberta's overall personal taxes are the lowest in Canada. As the following charts demonstrate, families pay less tax in Alberta than in any other province. Based on a two-income family earning \$60,000, Albertans pay \$3,252 less in taxes than residents of Quebec and \$1,153 less than residents of Ontario.

Employment Income of \$30,000 - One Income Family (Two Children)

	BC	AB	Sask.	Man	Ont.	Que.	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld.
Provincial Income Tax	259	(701)	881	569	(302)	(734)	1,255	1,120	1,121	1,450
Provincial Sales Tax	694	-	491	782	995	1,125	939	976	1,225	1,083
Fuel Tax	330	270	450	345	441	456	321	405	390	495
Tobacco Tax	550	350	430	480	223	328	363	401	448	550
Health Care Premium	648	612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	226	285	706	-	-	-	171
Total Provincial Tax	2,481	531	2,252	2,402	1,642	1,882	2,877	2,902	3,183	3,750

Employment Income of \$60,000 - Two Income Family (Two Children)

	BC	AB	Sask.	Man	Ont.	Que.	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld.
Provincial Income Tax	2,404	2,277	3,427	3,192	1,865	2,864	3,296	3,422	3,330	3,664
Provincial Sales Tax	1,046	-	732	1,161	1,478	1,608	1,425	1,470	1,848	1,641
Fuel Tax	495	405	675	518	662	684	482	608	585	743
Tobacco Tax	550	350	430	480	223	328	363	401	448	550
Health Care Premium	648	612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	452	570	1,413	-	-	-	343
Total Provincial Tax	5,143	3,644	5,264	5,802	4,797	6,896	5,565	5,900	6,210	6,941

Employment Income of \$100,000 - Two Income Family (Two Children)

	BC	AB	Sask.	Man	Ont.	Que.	NB	NS	PEI	Nfld.
Provincial Income Tax	5,617	5,595	7,747	8,336	4,883	9,582	7,763	7,989	7,559	8,602
Provincial Sales Tax	1,596	-	1,101	1,719	2,241	2,315	2,135	2,201	2,781	2,448
Fuel Tax	495	405	675	518	662	684	482	608	585	743
Tobacco Tax	550	350	430	480	223	328	363	401	448	550
Health Care Premium	648	612	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payroll Tax	-	-	-	754	950	2,355	-	-	-	571
Total Provincial Tax	8,906	6,962	9,953	11,807	8,958	15,262	10,742	11,199	11,372	12,914

- Calculations are based on tax parameters known at November 21, 2001.
- In provinces that impose payroll taxes, 75% is assumed to be borne by employees and 25% by employers. The same 75/25 split is assumed for health care insurance premiums.
- Fuel tax is based on estimated consumption of 3,000 liters per year for one-income families and 4,500 liters for two-income families.
- Tobacco tax is based on estimated consumption of 100 packs per adult per year.
- For two income families, income is split 60/40 between the two spouses.
- Business bears between 25% and 60% of the provincial sales tax, dependent upon the provincial tax regime.
- RRSP/RPP contributions are included in the calculation of personal income tax.
- The children in each family are assumed to be 6 and 12 years old.

Source: Alberta Finance, 2001

TRANSPORTATION

Alberta's transportation infrastructure plays a critical role in the province's economy. The province's strength as a major exporter of primary commodities and manufactured products to the global marketplace, is supported by a highly efficient and competitive transportation and logistics system.

Alberta's central location allows direct access to the fast-growing western Canadian market of over 9 million people. It also allows access to a total market of 120 million people residing within a 1,800-km radius (as far north as Alaska, as far south as Mexico, as far west as Los Angeles and as far east as the Mississippi) of the Alberta border. The off-shore markets are easily accessible thanks to an excellent rail transportation and intermodal system linking Alberta to the tidewater ports of Vancouver, Prince Rupert, Montreal, Halifax, Seattle and Tacoma.



Distances to Major Markets (kilometers)

<u>Canada</u>	<u>Edmonton</u>	<u>Calgary</u>
Montreal	3,551	3,582
Regina	780	758
Saskatoon	523	610
Toronto	3,356	3,387
Vancouver	1,189	957
Winnipeg	1,295	1,326
<u>United States</u>	<u>Edmonton</u>	<u>Calgary</u>
Chicago	2,610	2,553
Dallas	3,175	2,991
Denver	2,045	1,765
Detroit	3,035	2,978
Los Angeles	2,745	2,460
Minneapolis	2,228	1,920
Portland	1,521	1,252
San Francisco	2,380	2,111
Seattle	1,298	1,067

Source: Household Goods Carrier's Bureau - Mileage Guide

RAILWAYS

Alberta is serviced by two transcontinental railway companies, Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). Both companies provide highly efficient and competitive service in the movement of export commodities such as petrochemicals, forest products, grain, coal, fertilizers and sulphur to major ports, and throughout the United States and Mexico. A modern network of intermodal terminals is strategically located at Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Chicago, Toronto, and Montreal for movement of containerized cargo to the United States and international markets.

HIGHWAYS

Alberta has more than 28,000 km of paved roads and highways, which form an extensive network throughout the province. First class arterial roads and highways connect Alberta to the North American highway system. Primary highways in the province have good pavement conditions and support high load limits and truck dimensions. The province has the lowest highway fuel tax across Canada. Alberta is enhancing its North-South Trade Corridor that links the Alaska Highway to the north and the Canada America Export (CANAMEX) Trade Corridor at Coutts on the Montana border. CANAMEX follows Interstate 15 south through Idaho, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona and Mexico. Full implementation will lead to the harmonization of truck weights and dimensions and will facilitate the movement of higher payloads, increase efficiencies and reduce transportation costs.

AIR SERVICE

Two world-class airports, located at Calgary and Edmonton, service Alberta. The two airports are among the top ten largest airports in Canada, have 24-hour cargo services, modern cargo terminals and U.S. pre-clearance facility. They are used by major international airlines and provide direct passenger and cargo services to many North American and international destinations, and are also the major gateway to northern Canada.

Calgary International Airport, which serves as the hub for air traffic in the prairies, has the largest civil aviation runway in Canada, measuring 3,863 metres. 248,000 flights serviced over 8.7 million passengers in 2000, an 85 percent increase since 1993.

The Edmonton International Airport (EIA) is Canada's most northerly 24-hour international airport. It is the second largest airport in Canada as measured by landmass: comprises an area of over 7000 acres. Since 1997, passenger movements have been approximately 3.7 million annually, making EIA Canada's fifth largest airport. Its runways can accommodate any size aircraft, including the Antonov 124, the world's largest cargo aircraft, which has used the airport on many occasions. The EIA is the only facility in Northwestern America that has an Animal Quarantine Station on site to serve customers transporting live cargo to and from transborder and international destinations.

Alberta has regional airports in Grande Prairie, Peace River, Fort McMurray, High Level, Red Deer, Lloydminster, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat.

For more information
and up-to-date flight
schedules:



www.albertatrucking.com
www.aircanada.com



www.edmontonairports.com

www.cpr.ca www.cn.ca
www.portvancouver.com

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

One of Alberta's primary strengths is in its education system. Alberta's system consists of 30 institutions, including 4 universities, 2 technical institutes, 16 public colleges, 7 private accredited colleges and the Banff Centre.

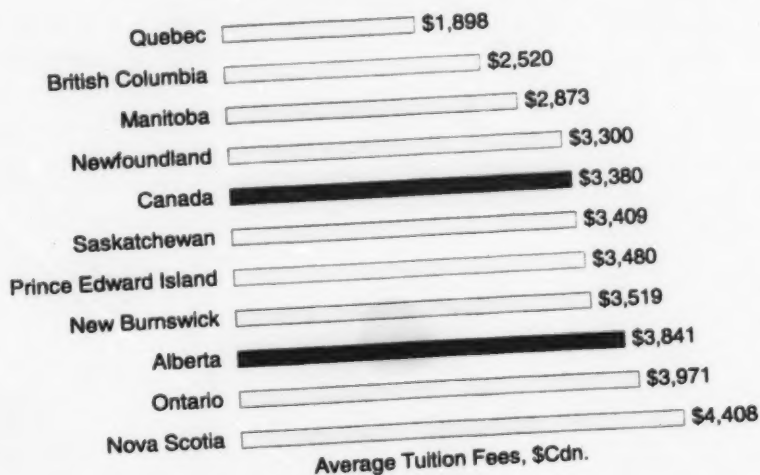
The combination of these facilities helps to provide one of the most highly educated workforces in North America.

University Full-time Enrollment 1999/2000

University	Undergraduate Students	Graduate Students	Total
University of Alberta	23,934	2,941	26,875
The University of Calgary	18,999	2,701	21,700
University of Lethbridge	5,461	83	5,544
Athabasca University*	3,560	781	4,341
TOTAL	51,954	6,506	58,460

Source: University of Calgary, Office of Institutional Analysis 2000-2001 Fact Book; Athabasca University
 * Athabasca University is a "distance education" institution. Numbers represents full-time equivalent enrollment.

Average Tuition Fees, Undergraduate Students (Arts)*



Source: Statistics Canada, 2000/2001

* Using the most current enrolment data available, average tuition fees (from both public and private institutions) have been weighted by the number of students.
 * Fees for both in- and out-of-province students are included in the weighted average calculation. Note that the weighting methodology was revised to more accurately reflect the impact of Quebec's differential fee policy. Hence, average tuition fees by program, at all Quebec universities and subsequently at the Canada level, have been revised for the years 1997/98 through 2000/01.



University
of
Alberta

Founded in 1908, the University of Alberta (U of A) is one of Canada's five largest research-intensive universities, which attract gross annual research funding in excess of \$213 million from external sources. U of A is Canada's second largest English-speaking university, which serves more than 30,000 students in 200 undergraduate and 170 graduate programs.

In 1998-1999, the University of Alberta ranked among the top five for research awards from Canada's three largest granting councils: the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. In August 2001, the federal and Alberta governments announced that they will each provide \$60 million to the U of A for the creation of the National Institute for Nanotechnology, which will put the University on par with five other centres in US, Great Britain, Singapore and Taiwan. U of A also ranks as one of the top universities in North America for establishing spin-off companies: Since 1993, 37 ongoing active spin-off companies collectively employing more than 1,500 people and five spin-off companies, which are now publicly traded

**Full-time Enrollment by Program,
September 2000**

Agriculture/Forestry/Home Economics	1,127
Arts	5,133
Business	1,786
Education	2,959
Engineering	2,981
Law	499
Medicine and Dentistry	1,131
Native Studies	225
Nursing	859
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	414
Physical Education and Recreation	904
Rehabilitation Medicine	493
Saint-Jean	437
Science	5,310
Open Studies	64
Graduate Studies and Research	2,935
Total Full-time Enrollment	27,357

Source: University of Alberta

with market capitalization of more than \$1.1 billion. U of A has averaged, over the past six years, 14 new patents and 25 new licenses per year.

U of A is especially proud of hosting international teams for the 2001 IAAF World Championships in Athletics in August 2001.

Additional Information: Office of the Registrar
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta
T6G 2M7

Phone: (780) 492-3113
Website: www.ualberta.ca

...it makes *SENSE*.



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

The University of Calgary (U of C) has 16 faculties with more than 60 academic departments, which lead to undergraduate, graduate, doctorate and professional degrees in a number of traditional and interdisciplinary fields.

U of C employs about 1,900 academic staff and serves 30,000 students registered in degree programs and another 20,000 in continuing education programs. The university offers significant support to undergraduate students: more than 4,000 awards totaling \$5 million in scholarships and awards are given each year.

**Full-time Enrollment by Faculty,
1999/2000**

Education	862
Engineering	2,076
Fine Arts	486
Communication & Culture	6,248
Humanities	558
Kinesiology	561
Law	221
Management	1,636
Medicine	669
Nursing	482
Science	1,898
Social Sciences	2,302
Social Work	362
Joint Faculty	540
Graduate Students	2,701
Total Full-time Enrollment	21,700

Source: University of Calgary, Office of
Institutional Analysis 2000-2001 Fact Book

With research funding exceeding \$134.5 million per year, U of C is a research and teaching university of growing national and international stature. According to the Canadian Association of University Business Officers, the U of C is the most research-intensive university in Alberta and among the top 10 in Canada. Research funding exceeds million per year. Virtually all faculty members engage in research, scholarship and creative activities ranging from the structure of chromosomes to the origins of the universe, from ancient Greek poetry to modern art, and from critical care nursing to biomedical engineering.

For the period 1999-2000, the economic impact of sponsored research income on the city of Calgary was \$92.7 million and 1,300 jobs. Total economic impact over the same period of the University of Calgary on the city of Calgary was \$621 million and 8,000 jobs.

Additional Information: Registrar's Office
The University of Calgary
2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2N 1N4
Phone: (403) 220-6645
Website: www.ucalgary.ca



**The
University of
Lethbridge**

With close to 6,000 full-time students, the University of Lethbridge (U of L) offers full degree programs in arts and science, education, health sciences, fine arts and management. The university also offers professional transfer programs in majors such as engineering, law, medicine and journalism.

The U of L is one of the few Canadian universities committed to a liberal arts undergraduate education. The Centre for the Arts at the U of L was designed to bring together the teaching faculties of art, music and theatre/drama, and to provide teaching spaces tailored to their needs.

Additional Information: The Registrar's Office
The University of Lethbridge
4401 University Drive
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4
Phone: (403) 320-5700
Website: www.uleth.ca



Athabasca University (AU) is internationally recognized as a leader in open and distance education, offering a high-quality university education to almost 22,000 students. This rate is rising over 20% per year. AU is dedicated to the removal of barriers that traditionally restrict access to and success in university-level studies, and to increasing equality of educational opportunity for all adult Canadians, regardless of their geographical location or prior academic credentials.

AU offers full bachelor degree programs in arts, general studies, science, administrative studies, commerce and nursing. Masters programs are offered in business administration and distance education. A number of certificate programs are also offered.

AU's programs are predominately available through individualized study, in which all materials and a collect call link with a tutor are included in the fees. Seminar and teleconference delivery modes are also provided, and several programs are offered with computer mediated communications support.

Additional Information: Public Affairs
Athabasca University
1 University Drive
Athabasca, Alberta T9S 3A3
Phone: 1-800-788-9041
Website: www.athabascau.ca



The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) ranks as one of Canada's finest and largest technical training institutes. With more than 14,000 full-time and apprenticeship students, and 40,000 continuing education registrations, it is Alberta's third largest post-secondary educational institution.

NAIT serves within the context of Alberta's advanced education system to design and deliver post-secondary, non-university career training, which is effective in terms of meeting student expectations and skilled manpower requirements of business and industry. NAIT confers certificates, diplomas, and applied degrees. The Institute has 195 programs, including 32 apprenticeship offerings and 1,300 continuing education courses. In addition, NAIT and SAIT were authorized in 1996 under the Technical Institutes Act to offer a joint applied degree program in Applied Information Systems Technology.

Additional Information: Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
11762 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3H1
Phone: 1-800-661-4077
Website: www.nait.ab.ca



Since it was founded in 1916, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) has become a world leader in providing state-of-the-practice technological training. The Institute served more than 67,000 learners during the 1999-2000 academic year and has a graduate employment rate of 97% due to its high-tech labs, facilities, and hands-on learning.

SAIT offers 63 certificate and diploma programs, four applied degrees, 25 apprenticeship programs and more than 1,038 career and personal development courses that provide training in business, health sciences, hospitality careers, communications, computing, electronics, construction trades, petroleum-related training, aeronautics, engineering technologies and transport and facility operations. In addition, SAIT now offers joint or two-plus-two degree programs (such as the Applied Information Systems Technology joint program with NAIT).

Additional Information: Southern Alberta Institute of Alberta
1301 - 16 Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0L4
Phone: 1-877-284-SAIT (7248)
Website: www.sait.ab.ca

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Research and development plays an important role in Alberta's economy. Alberta's research infrastructure consists of a strong network of public, private and educational organizations. The following are some leading partnerships between industry/government/academics:



■ www.arc.ab.ca

Alberta Research Council Inc. (ARC) develops and commercialises technologies to give customers a competitive advantage. The corporation performs applied research and development on a contract or fee basis, and co-ventures with others to develop new technologies, deriving a return on investment from the commercialisation of new products and processes. ARC also conducts applied research for the public good and to support provincial science and technology needs and strategies.

ARC bridges the gap between basic research and market development, by providing a full spectrum of R&D and advisory services. The corporation is widely recognized for its research capability in key market sectors: agriculture, biotechnology, energy, environment, forestry, health and manufacturing.



■ www.trlabs.ca

TRLabs (Telecommunications Research Laboratories) is the largest not-for-profit information and communications research consortium in Canada. It was established in 1986, as an applied research consortium based on industry, university and government collaboration focused on training top-notch talent to meet the demands of the growing ICT (information and communications technology) industry. Its research program is focused on five strategic areas: network systems, photonics, wireless communications, network access and data networking.



■ www.netera.ca

Netera Alliance is a not-for-profit corporation of universities, research institutions, government and small and large private-sector companies facilitating advanced information infrastructure in Alberta. It has offices in Calgary and Edmonton, and operates throughout the province.

Its core role is to design and implement the next-generation Internet in Alberta - a high-speed research network. This network, currently the world's longest Gigabit Ethernet network, is called NeteraNet.

maci

■ www.maci.ca

MACI is a collaborative project of the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge to provide high performance capabilities in computing. Its goal is to establish and maintain a regional advanced communication and computation infrastructure for the private sector, university and government researchers.

MACI currently provides members with access to advanced computing, high-speed networking and multimedia resources that are at the emerging edge of modern technology. Ongoing efforts to strengthen and broaden the resource base are aimed at achieving an advanced computing infrastructure that supports the highest quality research in science, engineering and the arts.

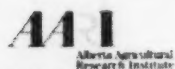


Alberta SuperNet

■ www.innovation.gov.ab.ca/supernet

Under the initiative of Alberta Innovation & Science, every hospital, school, library and government facility in the province will be connected to a high-speed broadband network (greater than 10 Mbs) so that Albertans everywhere - no matter where they live - will have equal access to high-speed Internet. This three year project will make affordable high-speed, broadband Internet access available to virtually all Albertans, providing the foundation for improved services in distance learning, telehealth and e-commerce.

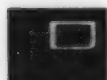
The Alberta Government will be the anchor tenant to deliver e-government services to 420 communities. This \$300 million project will be implemented by a consortium of industry players led by Bell Intrigna and includes AXIA Netmedia, Cisco Systems, Microsoft, Nortel Networks, Telsat Canada, 360 Networks and Total Telecom.



Alberta Agricultural Research Institute

■ www.aari.ab.ca

The Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) is the primary agency in Alberta for funding, coordinating and promoting strategic agricultural research initiatives and technology transfer in the agriculture and food sector. AARI was established by the Alberta Science and Research Authority Act and funds numerous projects each year that play a significant role in advancing Alberta's position as a global player in the agriculture and food sector.



The Industry Liaison Office

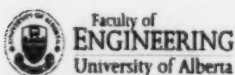
■ www.ualberta.ca/ILO

The Industry Liaison Office at the University of Alberta develops collaborative university/industry research programs and interacts with client investors and corporations seeking access to technology with commercial potential.



■ www.icore.ca

iCORE's mandate is to develop and support excellent university-based research teams around fundamental and applied problems in information and communications technology (ICT). Its goal is to build a critical mass of leading researchers in the fields of computer science, computer engineering, physics, mathematics and other ICT disciplines. iCORE receives \$10 million per year to support investment in ICT.



National Institute of Nanotechnology

■ www.engineering.ualberta.ca/

In August 2001, the federal AND THE Alberta governments and the University of Alberta announced that they are contributing a total of \$120 million to create the National Institute of Nanotechnology in Canada. The facilities specialized equipment and 200 research staff would put the University on par with four other centers in the US, Great Britain, Singapore and Taiwan.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PARKS

Both Calgary and Edmonton have an outstanding inventory of research parks for advanced technology activities. Tenants of the Edmonton Research Park and the University of Calgary Research Park can participate in cooperative education and training programs and thereby attract top scientific graduates and start-up technology companies.



Calgary Technologies Inc.

■ www.calgarytechnologies.com

Established in 1981, Calgary Technologies Inc., (formerly Calgary Research & Development Authority) is a joint partnership of The City of Calgary, the Calgary Chamber of Commerce and the University of Calgary, working with technology companies and entrepreneurs to develop and expand their operations in Calgary. CTI offers technology commercialization, technology incubation, technology facilities and technology advocacy in the information communications technology and life/bio-sciences sectors.



■ www.researchpark.ede.org

Economic Development Edmonton manages the 320-acre Edmonton Research Park, which was established in 1980 to assist in the diversification of the Edmonton economy through advanced technology. The Park is home to over 35 electronics, software and biotechnology companies. It employs over 1,200 scientists, engineers, technicians and support staff, making it the second largest such park in Canada. Located within the park is the Edmonton Advanced Technology Centre, a prizewinning 43,000-sq. ft. custom-built incubator to support new and early stage advanced technology enterprises.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

■ www.ahfmr.ab.ca

The **\$1 billion** Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research has contributed over \$600 million to medical research over the last 20 years, ensuring Alberta a top place in medical research.

■ www.ahfser.ab.ca

The **\$500 million** Alberta Ingenuity Fund (formerly the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Science and Engineering Research), established in 2000, will provide critical funding for research in many areas, including life sciences.

■ www.gov.ab.ca/is/research-grant/

Innovation and Science Research Investments Program is a \$30 million fund which supports selective science and research initiative of strategic importance to Alberta in three areas: science awareness and promotion; research infrastructure; enabling research application and technology transfer.

THE FOOD PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

■ www.agric.gov.ab.ca/ministry/org/fpdc/index.html

Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), through the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, opened the Food Processing Development Centre at Leduc in 1984. It serves to encourage the growth and expansion of this vital industry in highly competitive domestic and global markets.

As an integral part of AAFRD's Processing Industry Division, the centre is a modern, fully equipped pilot plant and product development laboratory facility. The Centre's services are designed to strengthen and expand the capability of Alberta's food processors to meet the challenges of the marketplace through application of new technology and the development of new or improved products and processes.

Major areas of support and services include:

- technical consultation (food scientists; engineers)
- concept analysis and development
- laboratory and pilot plant product development
- prototype design and demonstration
- interim processing and product packaging
- regulatory requirements and labeling assistance
- product packaging
- quality control/quality assurance specifications
- sensory evaluation

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS

The federal government provides the Scientific, Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Tax Credit Program to encourage firms to undertake research and development. The *SR&ED Tax Credit Program* reduces the cost of research and development to the firm.

Under this program, the federal government provides income tax incentives to Canadian businesses that conduct scientific research and experimental development in Canada. The program encourages industry, including small business and start-up firms, to develop technologically advanced products and processes.

Claimants can apply for SR&ED investment tax credits for expenditures such as wages, materials, machinery, equipment, some overhead and SR&ED contracts.

Generally, Canadian-controlled private corporations with less than \$200,000 of taxable income can receive a refundable investment tax credit of up to 35% (enriched rate) for qualifying SR&ED expenditures. An enriched refundable claim is subject to a limit of \$2 million for qualifying expenditures.

Most other Canadian corporations, proprietorships, partnerships and trusts can receive an investment tax credit of up to 20% for qualifying SR&ED expenditures.

Projects, which qualify for SR&ED tax credits, involve work to achieve a technological advance, through a process of systematic investigation overcoming a technological uncertainty, and conducted by appropriately qualified people. These projects may be:

- Experimental development to achieve technological advancement to create new materials, devices, products, or processes, or improve existing ones;
- Applied research to advance scientific knowledge with a specific practical application in view;
- Basic research to advance scientific knowledge without a specific practical application in view; and
- Supporting work in engineering, design, operations research, mathematical analysis, computer programming, data collection, testing or psychological research - if the work is commensurate with, and directly supports, the eligible basic or applied research or experimental development.

For more information: www.cra-adrc.gc.ca/sred

QUALITY OF LIFE

Alberta offers internationally recognized tourism destinations, natural scenic beauty, world-renowned national parks, picturesque and diverse landscapes, and friendly, safe and dynamic cities. Albertans belong to many different cultural communities from Asia, Europe, the Caribbean...etc. and every year participate in an array of colorful and exciting festivals.

NATURE & TOURISM

With its vast forests, pristine lakes, wide-open prairies and the magnificent Rocky Mountains, the province of Alberta contains a diversity of natural landscapes that few other places can match. The province annually attracts over 4 million visitors from outside Alberta.

Highlighting Alberta's beauty are the Rocky Mountains parks. The Rockies are home to four internationally acclaimed natural parks: the national parks of Jasper, Banff and Waterton Lakes, and the provincial park of Kananaskis Country.

Jasper is the largest and most northerly of the four Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks. Its scenery is rugged, including deeply gouged Maligne Canyon and picturesque Maligne Lake. Maligne Lake is the second-largest glacial lake in the world. The Columbia Icefields, located between Jasper and Banff, are the home of glaciers and waterfalls.

Banff is a world-famous tourist destination. The townsite offers a wide range of amenities surrounded by wilderness: it is not unusual to see elk or even the occasional bear on the streets. Numerous hiking trails are easily accessible, and the highway north to Lake Louise and Jasper is dotted with pull-offs for picnics and photos.

Waterton Lakes is the world's first international peace park located on Alberta's border with the United States. Serving as a symbol of Canada's friendly relationship with the United States, Waterton Lakes offers all the expected activities to be found within a national park.

Kananaskis Country is 4,250 square kilometres (2,550 square miles) of foothills, mountains and streams set aside as a unique multi-use recreation area. Four provincial parks fall within its borders, with three main roads through Kananaskis that offer breathtaking day-trip possibilities. There are no shortages of activities, year round: camping, hiking, boating, fishing, biking, equestrian or snow mobiling. You can also take up the challenge of playing 36 of the most scenic golf holes in the world, at the Kananaskis Country Golf Course.

Alberta is home to five of Canada's thirteen United Nations World Heritage Sites. They are: Dinosaur Provincial Park (fossil beds), Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (aboriginal culture), Wood Buffalo National Park (wildlife), the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (natural splendour), and the Waterton Glacier International Peace Park (natural and cultural significance).

In 2000, the number of visits to eighteen provincial historic sites, museums and interpretive centres totaled 1.07 million.

Residents of both Edmonton and Calgary enjoy the beauty of parks and river valleys. The pride of every Edmontonian is the quiet preserve of nature within the North Saskatchewan River valley - the longest expanse of continuous urban parkland in North America. The North Saskatchewan

River valley features 27,394 acres of parkland, including 60 kilometres of bicycle paths and 400 kilometres of trails.

Calgary is home of two major natural parks. Fish Creek Provincial Park protects 2,800 acres of natural woodland, including a lake with a beach and many hiking and biking trails. Nose Hill Park, covering over 2,700 acres, offers natural grassland, a spectacular city view and excellent hiking.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The arts and culture sector contributes to an exciting quality of life for Alberta's residents, offering superb leisure time, business, education, career development, and life enrichment opportunities. Alberta arts organizations held almost 10,000 events in 2000. 13.6 million people attended 33,000 shows at these events. In 2000, 536 arts organizations, funded by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, contributed an estimated \$ 165 million to the provincial economy. The Foundation for the Arts has provided employment for over 5,300 Albertans. Overall, the foundation supports and contributes to the development of literary, performing, visual and media arts in Alberta, and provides Albertans with opportunities to participate in the arts.

Support for the arts is also a part of Alberta's culture as demonstrated by contributions by tens of thousands of volunteers each year. During 2000, 61,000 Albertan volunteers contributed 2.8 million hours, equivalent to 1,458 full-time jobs, to arts organizations throughout the province.

Both Calgary and Edmonton have world-class cultural facilities that include concert halls and theatres to accommodate their symphony orchestras, ballet companies, Broadway shows, concerts and live theatre. Throughout the province community-led festivals bring music, dance, film, literature, theatre and visual arts to Albertans of all ages. In 2000-2001, 54 festivals entertained more than 1.7 million people in Alberta.

Edmonton has become widely known as Canada's "Festival City", attracting visitors worldwide. In particular, the summer months hosts events such as Heritage Days (an annual celebration of the province's ethnic diversity), Jazz City International Festival, the famous Klondike Days Extravaganza, the Folk Music Festival, and North America's largest Fringe Festival of live theatre.

There are numerous public and private museums and art galleries throughout Alberta. The city is home to the Provincial Museum and Archives of Alberta, Strathcona Science Park, and the Edmonton Space & Science Centre (the largest planetarium in Canada and home of an IMAX theatre).

Calgary is home to the world-renowned Calgary Stampede, which draws visitors internationally for its Half Million Dollar Rodeo. In addition, Calgary hosts over 80 other festivals and events each year, ranging from the Winter Festival to the International Children's Festival.

Calgary has a complete and diversified portfolio of eleven museums and galleries. The most prominent of these is the Glenbow Museum with its permanent Indian and Inuit arts and craft

displays. Also in Calgary is the Alberta College of Art Gallery, Heritage Park (a 66-acre park highlighting pre-1915 Western Canada), and the Calgary Zoo and Prehistoric Park.

SPORTS & FITNESS

With 600 lakes, 245 rivers and over 78,000 km² of parks, Alberta has an abundance of recreation opportunities and over 2,300 hours of sunshine each year to enjoy them. Whether you're into outdoor recreation or learning about the natural environment, our network of recreation and protected areas has what you're looking for - winter, spring, summer or fall. In the winter months Albertans enjoy mountain biking, downhill skiing, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, ice climbing and skating.

During the summer, the province receives 16 to 18 hours of daylight, allowing for some of the best outdoor experiences. The province has 275 golf courses, 6 mountain ski resorts and 66 regional ski hills, as well as some of the best trout fishing in the world. Some of the most spectacular golf courses are those in Canmore, Banff and Jasper National Parks, and Kananaskis Country. In fact, the Jasper Park Lodge golf course is often rated Canada's top resort course.

Both Edmonton and Calgary have numerous sport and recreational participation programs. Each city has professional teams in football, hockey and baseball. In addition, Alberta has top-notch sporting facilities as proven by Calgary's hosting of the XVth Olympic Winter Games, and Edmonton's hosting of the Commonwealth Games. In the summer of 2001, Edmonton hosted the 8th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, Canadian National Track and Field Championship and the World Triathlon Championship.

For additional tourism information contact:



www.travelalberta.com

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Alberta is committed to providing its residents with opportunities for education. The province has made available an affordable and diversified system of education with qualified instruction. For example, in 2000-2001, Alberta's average annual tuition for an undergraduate arts degree was \$3,841.

The Alberta Students Finance Board manages a number of programs to ensure every Albertan has access to education, and that cost is not a barrier.

The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund provides grants to High School students achieving academic excellence to pursue post-secondary education. The scholarship fund currently administers over 45 different scholarships and has a yearly budget in excess of \$19.2 million. The purpose of Financial Support for Students in Upgrading & Basic Foundation Skills Programs is to help adults develop the skills they need to obtain employment. This includes programs such as: pre-technology training; university and college entrance preparation (UCEP); academic upgrading (Grades 10 - 12); academic preparation training; adult basic education (Grades 7 - 9); literacy and numeracy; English as a second language (ESL).

Under the Achievement Scholarships category, the Government of Alberta will be awarding \$10.1 million in 2001. This category administers three scholarships: Jason Lang Scholarship, Jimmie Condon Athletic Scholarship and Graduate Students Scholarship.

The Alberta Opportunities Bursary, a partnership among post-secondary institutions, the private sector, and government, will help financially needy adult Albertans to further their education. The Alberta Government will contribute up to \$15 million annually to match private contributions to the Alberta Opportunities Bursary, made through post-secondary institutions. The intent of the program is to ease the burden of above-normal debt carried by some students while attending full-time studies.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Compared to other major Canadian cities, Calgary and Edmonton are among the safest. The province has two separate systems of law enforcement: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), responsible for federal law enforcement, and municipalities' own forces. Both urban and rural areas utilize innovative and cost-effective crime prevention programs. In addition, crime is reduced by the involvement of communities in prevention programs such as Block Watch and Police Community Action Plans.

Major Cities	Violent Crimes	Property Crimes
Regina, SK	1,709	8,536
Vancouver, BC	1,120	7,761
Saskatoon, SK	1,332	6,439
Victoria, BC	1,268	6,577
Thunder Bay, ON	1,525	4,178
Winnipeg, MB	1,232	5,590
Edmonton, AB	869	4,802
London, ON	885	5,260
Ottawa-Hull, ON	732	3,966
Calgary, AB	848	5,036
Québec, QC	465	3,100

* Rates are calculated per 100,000 population

Source: Statistics Canada, 2000